

Collection on Benjamin Harrison

S1178, V333

1891-1953, bulk 1901-1908

5 folders, 4 volumes

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Indiana State Library

Processed by: Christina Baich, March 2006

Finding aid revised: Brittany Kropf, 11/06/2015

Biographical Note:

Benjamin Harrison was born on August 20, 1833, in North Bend, Ohio. His father, John Scott Harrison, was a U.S. Representative from Ohio, and his grandfather was William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States. Benjamin Harrison was raised in Ohio and attended Miami University of Ohio. After graduating in 1852, Harrison studied law for two years at a Cincinnati law firm. In 1853, he married Caroline Scott with whom he had two children, Russell and Mary.

After a year of marriage, the Harrisons moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where Benjamin Harrison established a law firm. In 1855, he joined the practice of William Wallace (father of Lew Wallace). He was elected Indianapolis City Attorney in 1857. He also served as reporter for the Indiana Supreme Court. In 1862, Oliver P. Morton asked Harrison to recruit men for the 70th Indiana Volunteers. Harrison served throughout the Civil War and reached the rank of Brigadier General. Harrison was narrowly defeated in the 1876 gubernatorial election by James Williams. In 1879, he was appointed a member of the Mississippi River Commission. He served three terms as a U.S. Senator (1881-1887).

In 1888, he was elected President of the United States. Among his accomplishments were the first Pan American Congress and the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Towards the end of his term, his wife Caroline died of tuberculosis. Harrison failed to win reelection in 1892, perhaps partially due to his distraction from the campaign when his wife died. After leaving office, he returned to Indianapolis and his law practice. In 1896, he married Caroline's niece, Mary Lord Dimmick. He remained an active writer and lecturer until his death on March 13, 1901, of pneumonia.

Sources:

American President: Benjamin Harrison. Miller Center of Public Affairs. 2 Mar. 2006.

<<http://www.americanpresident.org/history/benjaminharrison/biography/>>.

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress. United States Congress. 2 Mar. 2006.

<<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000263>>.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains three scrapbooks of clippings compiled by Harrison's son, Russell. The clippings document the death of Benjamin Harrison. A fourth scrapbook contains clippings regarding Harrison's Southern Tour of the United States in the Spring of 1891. There are items related to various memorials to Benjamin Harrison following his death as well as a short biographical pamphlet and information on a full-length biography written by Harry Sievers in the 1950s.

Item Listing:

Folder 1.

1901 Indiana State Bar Association Memorial Meeting for Benjamin Harrison (2 copies)

Folder 2.

1902 Feb. "Benjamin Harrison as a Lawyer and an Orator," article by W. W. Thornton, 5 p.

Folder 3. *Benjamin Harrison monument, 1902-1908*

1902 May Readings by Indiana Authors in Aid of Benjamin Harrison Monument Association

1908 Oct. 27 Unveiling of Monument to Benjamin Harrison Order of Exercises (2 copies)

1908 Oct. 27 Addresses and poem read at the Unveiling of Monument to Benjamin Harrison (2 copies)

Folder 4.

1940? Recommendations of the Benjamin Harrison Memorial Commission (5 copies)

Folder 5. *Article & Sievers materials, 1929 and 1952-1953*

1929 Mar. "Library of Congress Receives Letters of Benjamin Harrison, Given by Harry S. New," Indianapolis News article

1952 Promotional brochure for Benjamin Harrison: Hoosier Warrior by Harry Sievers

1953 President Benjamin Harrison and Our Country's Flag by Harry J. Sievers (2 copies)

Volumes.

333-1 Scrapbook of clippings on Benjamin Harrison's Southern Tour of the United States, Spring 1891

333-2 Scrapbook of clippings on Benjamin Harrison's death, 1901

333-3 Scrapbook of clippings on Benjamin Harrison's death, 1901

333-4 Scrapbook of clippings on Benjamin Harrison's death, 1901

Collection Information:

Size of Collection: 5 folders, 4 volumes
Collection Dates: 1891-1983, bulk 1901-1908
Provenance: Unknown
Access: This collection is open for research.
Restrictions: None
Reproduction Rights: Permission to reproduce, exhibit, or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Manuscript Section, Indiana State Library. Possession of a reproduction from an Indiana State Library collection does not constitute permission for use.
Language Materials are entirely in English
Alternate Formats:
Related Holdings: L63, Benjamin Harrison papers
S55, President Benjamin Harrison Home collection
Notes: